

# **Students Come First Through Collaborative Efforts Between J.D. Patton ATC and the Kenton County Local School District**

**When J.D. Patton ATC Principal Ray Stanley left this year's summer conference, he knew that the relationship between his school and the local district was where it needed to be.**

**Office of Career and Technical Education Executive Director Emil Jezik said during**



**Counselor Christy Teague**



**Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter**

**summer conference, “We (academic and technical education counterparts) are all essential in the education process for students. It is imperative that we all take part in creating, developing and continuing positive relationships with local school district personnel.”**

**“It is in our best interest to build these relationships to help direct the individual accomplishments for each of our students. It is a priority to work with local school district personnel to achieve this goal,” said Jezik.**

**Newly appointed Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter made a special visit to Patton to personally meet with ATC staff as well as local district employees to better understand collaborative efforts that have been lauded as successful in helping students to succeed. A few pinpointed changes have produced the right connection between academic and technical education personnel and the blending of philosophies for the benefit of the student.**

**“The whole relationship between Patton and Kenton Co. is great,” says Stanley. “I think the Kenton Co. administration saw a need to help students and to pay for a counselor, English teacher and math teacher to be here.”**



**(l to r) – Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter, English Instructor Pat Sullivan, Math Instructor Martha Ferguson and Kenton Co. Director of Secondary Education Dr. Teri Brown.**





**“My trip was extremely valuable because it provided me with an opportunity to learn about this targeted project by meeting face-to-face with our staff and district personnel,” says Carter. “I can see and feel the shared respect these people have in their mission of creating the right environment for kids to achieve success. I’m impressed with their approach.”**

**“Students need to know that all of us care about them,” says Kenton Co. Director of Secondary Education Dr. Teri Brown. “It’s all about working together for their success.”**

**Brown also serves as a leader in the district’s Tech Prep program. She credits Kenton Co.**

**Superintendent Dr. Susan Cook as being instrumental in wanting to do something more collaborative with the ATC. As a result, this special initiative was launched two years ago to try to encourage students to attend the ATC.**

**Counselor Christy Teague, English Instructor Pat Sullivan and Martha Ferguson, who serves as the math instructor are all full-time employees paid by the local district and physically located at the ATC. In a united effort, their main objectives are to provide a means to improve test scores and help students to succeed. They work very closely with each ATC instructor.**

**Both Ferguson and Sullivan have a schedule where they work two weeks with each of the eight program areas. Afternoons are reserved for one-on-one help sessions. Both women agree that teachers at the high school believe this arrangement has made and is making their jobs easier.**

**“We can appreciate this because we have both worked with large groups of students in the past,” says Sullivan.**

**“This is the way to teach these students. Sometimes students say to me, ‘I wish you were my regular math**


***Pat Sullivan  
loves working  
one-on-one  
with the  
students.***



teacher,' ” says Ferguson. “The reason they like me is because they are in small groups and I have time to pay attention to them.”

Ferguson believes that she has always been an ivory tower type math instructor; that is, until she started working in this setting at the ATC.

“I love to work math problems. Working here fills in the missing pieces of how math applies in the real world,” says Ferguson. “This is the perfect environment because I have eight experts in eight technical areas teaching me how math applies in the real world.”



*“This is the perfect environment because I have eight experts in eight technical areas teaching me how math applies in the real world.”*

*Martha Ferguson*

“What an opportunity. My initial thought was how wonderful it will be to work with small groups,” says Sullivan. “Writing is one of the easiest areas to affect in small groups. What I really like are the afternoons when I can work one-on-one. At first, we had to drag kids in here.



**But, we have experienced success in getting kids to write.”**

**Teague’s role is to make the connection with the high school by communicating with all the counselors and principals in the district.**

**“This was a unique situation because I already knew the Kenton Co. counselors,” says Teague. “In my opinion, the number one reason that I am here is for the kids. They need to have the same support system here as they do at the high school.”**

**When asked about how this affected the students, Teague said, “Initially, there was resistance. They didn’t want to take math and English here, but the mindset changed because they figured out they could get the help they needed.”**

**“You are almost dealing with two different kinds of kids. At the ATC, they are in their element,” says Teague.**

**“We are in their psyche,” says Ferguson.**

**“I know there are other ATCs and local school districts where positive relationships are in place. What I want to see is this type of arrangement in ATCs across the state,” says Carter. “Why? Quite simply, it’s working and that’s what it’s all about.”**

**“Dr. Cook and Kenton Co. Deputy Superintendent Tim Hanner are always talking to me about how we can improve and expand technical education,” says Stanley. “That wasn’t surprising to me and we are succeeding.”**

**Carter left both Dr. Brown and Ray Stanley with no doubt that the Office of Career and Technical Education supports their efforts; salutes their progress and wants to be a partner in taking this to the next level – providing students with academic credit for technical programs. The major pieces are in place to achieve this goal.**

**Auto Body Repair Instructor James R. Wietholter explains how the heating process works in the school's state-of-the-art paint booth.**



**Good News Flash #89  
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**J.D. Patton Health Science Instructor Joyce Lyman explains to Lewis Carter that "having Pat and Martha at school has dropped the percentage of non-completers."**



**Carter (l) and J.D. Patton ATC Principal Ray Stanley take a moment to discuss football. Both have played and coached the sport.**



**Electrical Technology Instructor Tom Pitts explains to Carter how he makes up a personalized notebook for each new student. The notebook covers a two-year period.**